

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 SSO-00 ARAE-00 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11321

LIMDIS

ARA FOR ASSTSECY ROGERS; SNM FOR VANCE; DEA FOR EOI CUSACK

FROM AMB JOVA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: OPERATION TRIZO

REF A. STATE 297271, B. ALBERTI/AMB VANCE TELCON, DEC. 17;

C. ALBERTI/DUGSTAD TELCON, DEC. 18; D. MEXICO 11108; E. MEXICO 11183

1. I HAD OCCASION TO CALL ATTY GEN OJEDA PAULLADA DEC. 17
IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT OF ATTY GEN LEVI. ALTHOUGH WE HAD
NOT YET RECEIVED REF A AT THAT TIME, I USED OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPRESS OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER UNIMPRESSIVE TROOP COMMIT-
MENT THUS FAR TO INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN, AND TO UNDERLINE
CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES IN THIS REGARD. AG SAID HE ALSO HAD
BEEN MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM, BUT THAT HE WAS
NOW RPT NOW WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH ARMY WHICH WOULD
RESOLVE SITUATION DEFINITELY. HE SAID HE WOULD
BE MEETING FURTHER WITH ARMY STAFF AND WOULD KEEP
ME INFORMED. I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN AND WE ARE
DOUBTFUL IF, IN FACT, SCHEDULED AG/ARMY MEETINGS
HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

2. REFS B, C AND D REPORTED THAT ARMY HAD
TROOPS AVAILALBE, IN FACT COMMITTED, BUT WERE RE-
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LUCTANT TO USE THEM UNLESS AG'S OFFICE WOULD SUB-

SIDIZE THEIR RATIONS. AG AND DR. GERTZ HAVE TOLD
DEA AND EMBASSY THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO PAY FOR

TROOPS' RATIONS AS LONG AS THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS
AVAILABLE, AND THAT THIS WILL NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM.
HOW SOON THIS DECISION WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO IN-
CREASED TROOPS IN FIELD REMAINS TO BE SEEN,
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF HOLIDAY SEASON NOW UPON US.

3. I HAVE MEETING WITH OJEDA SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 23 AND WILL
BRING HEATH AND ALBERTI WITH ME. MEANWHILE, IN ORDER
FURTHER TO BRIEF MYSELF AND TO MAKE SURE ALL BASES
ARE COVERED, I ASKED OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE TO AP-
PROACH ARMY CONCERNING ITS ROLE IN THE ANTI-
NARCOTICS EFFORT. HE SAW CHIEF OF STAFF ON
DEC. 22, AND WAS TOLD THAT ARMY HAD RE-
CEIVED FROM AG NEITHER OPERATIONAL PLANS NOR FORMAL
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN INTENSIFIED PHASE OF CAMPAIGN. (HE
STRESSED THAT ARMY MOUNTS YEAR-ROUND OPERATION
AGAINST NARCOTICS.) THIS INFORMATION SEEMS TO
CONTRADICT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY AG AND
HIS STAFF. IT MAY, IN FACT, BE QUESTION MORE OF
FORM THAN SUBSTANCE AND FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
TENUOUS POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC RELATIONS BE-
TWEEN THE SECDEF AND OJEDA. IN ANY CASE, I PLAN TO
SEEK CLARIFICATION WHEN I SEE TORIDA, AND SHALL, OF
COURSE, KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED AS EVENTS DEVELOP.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON DEC. 22 THERE WAS TO
TAKE PLACE AN IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL DEMARCHE TO
THE WHITE HOUSE CONCERNING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.
WE BELIEVE THAT AS RESULT OF THIS MEETING A
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON DRUG PROBLEM IN
GENERAL, EMPHASIZING ALSO THE NEED TO DO MORE IN THE U.S.,
ITSELF, WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN UNDERLINING THE UR-
GENCY AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS NATIONAL
PRIORITY. THE PLANNED MEETING DEC. 29 BETWEEN
AGS LEVI AND OJEDA ALSO OFFERS US A GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITY. BEYOND THIS SOCIAL AMENITIES, I
SUGGEST WE USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FURTHER TO
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STRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN AT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE
PROBLEM AND THE URGENT NEED TO GET THE MEXICAN ARMY
MORE DEEPLY AND EFFECTIVELY INVOLVED. I SHALL BE
SENDING A SEPARATE CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT.
JOVA

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